

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

SUBJECT Meeting of Austrian Communist
Party Officials

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. At a meeting of the Austrian Communist Party Central Committee and Vienna Bezirk leaders on 21 September 1948, Josef Lauscher announced that lack of initiative and poor leadership in the Communist Party Central Committee had necessitated the formation of a Committee of Three (Dreier Komitee) to make the final decisions for the Executive Committee of the Central Committee when unanimous decisions cannot be reached. Lauscher introduced the members of the committee, but only Braunsteiner was identified. () Comment: 25X1A Previous mentions of Braunsteiner are contained in () 25X1A The other two are believed to be foreigners, possibly Russians. One of them read a speech in very bad German.
2. Lauscher stated that the Party had made some serious errors of late and had done little to rectify them. He placed the blame on the leaders, who, he stated, are not sufficiently radical and have no revolutionary experience. He castigated the Party leadership for failing to take full advantage of the opportunities for revolutionary action afforded them by the recent wage price agreements. He accused Party officials at all levels of a lack of interest in Party affairs, of seeking personal advantage, and of nationalism. He said that all those who are at fault, pointing out that there were many, must recognize their faults and submit to Party discipline. Lauscher added that the Central Committee will soon screen all Bezirk and Sektion officials and concluded by saying that Soviet troops are to be withdrawn from Korea because the government is "firmly in the hands of the people". He predicted that the same would soon happen in Germany, but that the Soviets might have to remain in Austria for a long time because the Party has made such a poor showing.

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Summary

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